

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 103058

72

ORIGIN SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /031 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/CE:HWILGIS:SK

APPROVED BY EUR:WSTABLER

EUR/CE - MR. GEORGE

EUR/CE - MR. LEDSKY

S/P - MR. PALMER

S/S - MR. LUERS

S/S-S - MR. PENDLETON

----- 052501

O 170204Z MAY 74 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 103058

EXDIS TOSEC 733

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW, OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: BRIEFING MATERIAL: SECRETARY'S VISIT TO BONN

FOR S/S ONLY (CONTINGENCY PAPER)

1. TRANSMITTED BELOW ARE BIOGRAPHIES ON CHANCELLOR HELMUT SCHMIDT, FOREIGN MINISTER HANS-DIETRICH GENSCHER, AND PRESIDENT-ELECT WALTER SCHEEL; SUGGESTED ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE STATEMENTS AND A SUGGESTED TOAST.

2. BIOGRAPHY OF HELMUT SCHMIDT. A GERMAN CABINET MEMBER SINCE 1969, SCHMIDT BECAME CHANCELLOR ON MAY 16. LONG CONSIDERED A POSSIBLE SPD HEIR-APPARENT, BUT NEVER POPULAR WITH BRANDT OR WEHNER, SCHMIDT MUST NOW REBUILD A COALITION GOVERNMENT RAKED BY THE GUILLAUME SPY AFFAIR AND MONTHS OF SLUGGISH LEADERSHIP IN BONN. SCHMIDT BRINGS TO HIS TASK INTELLIGENCE AND DECISIVENESS AND A DETERMINATION TO MAINTAIN GERMAN PROSPERITY AND FRG TIES TO THE US. HE IS QUICK-MINDED BUT SHARP-TONGUED, AND THE QUESTION REMAINS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 103058

WHETHER FROM HIS POSITION IN THE RIGHT WING OF THE SPD HE

CAN HOLD THE PARTY TOGETHER. MARRIED, SCHMIDT HAS A GROWN DAUGHTER. AN ENTHUSIASTIC YACHTSMAN, SCHMIDT RELAXES BY PAINTING AND PLAYING THE PIANO AND ORGAN. HE SPEAKS ENGLISH FLUENTLY.

3. BIOGRAPHY OF FOREIGN MINISTER HANS-DIETRICH GENSCHER. WITH WALTER SCHEEL'S ELECTION AS FEDERAL PRESIDENT, GENSCHER HAS BECOME BOTH CHAIRMAN OF THE FDP AND FRG FOREIGN MINISTER. GENSCHER HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE COALITION CABINET SINCE 1969, SERVING DURING THIS FIVE-YEAR PERIOD AS AN ENERGETIC INTERIOR MINISTER WITH A PENCHANT FOR HEADLINES AND A REPUTATION FOR TOUGHNESS. IN SOME SENSE HE HAS BECOME GERMANY'S SYMBOL OF LAW AND ORDER. GENSCHER IS PAROCHIAL AND CONSERVATIVE IN OUTLOOK BUT TOUGH-MINDED AND INTELLIGENT. IT WILL CLEARLY TAKE HIM TIME TO MASTER DETAILED FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES, BUT BEING A GOOD ORGANIZER, AND PERSONAL TASK MASTER, HE WILL BE ON TOP OF HIS NEW SUBJECT MATTER AND THE FAR-FLUNG FOREIGN MINISTRY BUREAUCRACY WHICH HE HEADS BY EARLY SUMMER. GENSCHER HAS VISITED THE UNITED STATES SEVERAL TIMES, BUT SPEAKS LITTLE ENGLISH. HE IS A MAN OF CONSIDERABLE CHARM, WITH AN ENGAGING SMILE AND A READY WIT. IN 1969 GENSCHER MARRIED HIS FORMER SECRETARY, AFTER DIVORCING HIS WIFE OF SOME TWENTY YEARS.

4. BIOGRAPHY OF PRESIDENT-ELECT WALTER SCHEEL. ELECTED TO A FIVE-YEAR TERM AS FEDERAL PRESIDENT ON MAY 15, SCHEEL WILL ASSUME HIS NEW OFFICE ON JULY 1. HE HAS ALREADY RELINQUISHED HIS FOREIGN MINISTRY POST AND FDP PARTY CHAIRMANSHIP AND THUS AT THE PRESENT TIME IS TECHNICALLY ONLY A BUNDESTAG DEPUTY. SCHEEL HAS SERVED SINCE 1969 AS GERMANY'S FOREIGN MINISTER AND, WHILE NEVER ABLE TO SHAKE OFF COMPLETELY HIS REPUTATION AS A DIPLOMATIC LIGHT WEIGHT, HE HAS CAPTURED AND HELD PUBLIC ATTENTION AND ADMIRATION IN GERMANY. INDEED THROUGHOUT EUROPE HE IS VIEWED AS A MAN OF COMPROMISE AND GOODWILL, WHO HAS PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. SCHEEL HAS TRAVELED WIDELY IN THE LAST TWO YEARS, VISITING CHINA, THE SOVIET UNION, AND THE MIDDLE EAST. HE HAS BEEN TO THE US ON MANY OCCASIONS AND IS WELL INFORMED ON US DOMESTIC POLITICS. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 103058

WHILE HE SPEAKS AND UNDERSTANDS ENGLISH, HE PREFERS GERMAN IN OFFICIAL TALKS. A WIDOWER, SCHEEL REMARRIED IN 1969.

5. SUGGESTED ARRIVAL STATEMENT. THIS IS MY THIRD VISIT IN THE PAST THREE MONTHS, WHICH IS SUFFICIENT PROOF, I THINK, THAT I LIKE YOUR CITY. I'M HERE TO INTRODUCE MY WIFE, NANCY, AND INCIDENTALLY TO SEE MY OLD FRIEND WALTER SCHEEL, WHO SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN ELECTED TO A NEW OFFICE.

MY VISIT WILL ALSO GIVE ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH THE NEW CHANCELLOR AND A NEW COLLEAGUE, FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER.

THE CHALLENGES FACING YOUR GOVERNMENT, THE UNITED STATES AND, INDEED, THE ENTIRE ATLANTIC COMMUNITY ARE GREAT. WE

MUST WORK CLOSELY TOGETHER IF WE ARE TO CONTINUE MEETING THESE CHALLENGES. MY VISIT TO BONN IS A STEP IN THAT ENDEAVOR.

WE WILL, OF COURSE, BE EXCHANGING VIEWS ON THE SITUATION IN THE MID-EAST. I PLAN TO BRIEF THE CHANCELLOR AND FOREIGN MINISTER ON OUR EFFORTS THESE PAST WEEKS, AND OUR APPRAISAL OF WHERE THINGS STAND.

6. SUGGESTED DEPARTURE STATEMENT. THIS BRIEF VISIT HAS BEEN BOTH ENJOYABLE AND USEFUL. MRS. KISSINGER AND I WANT TO EXPRESS OUR APPRECIATION FOR THE GENEROUS HOSPITALITY SHOWN US BY OUR GERMAN HOSTS.

PRESIDENT NIXON FELT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR ME TO MEET WITH THE LEADERS OF THE NEW GERMAN GOVERNMENT. HE WAS CERTAINLY CORRECT IN THIS JUDGMENT. MY MEETING WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT WAS ESPECIALLY OPPORTUNE. THE BURDENS WHICH MY OLD FRIEND HAS ASSUMED ARE GREAT AND HIS RESPONSIBILITIES LARGE. ONLY A MAN OF HIS GREAT CAPACITY AND TALENT COULD RISE TO THE OCCASION.

I ALSO APPRECIATED THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH MY NEW COLLEAGUE, FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER AND LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING CLOSELY WITH HIM.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 103058

I ALSO ENJOYED MEETING WITH WALTER SCHEEL, YOUR PRESIDENT-ELECT. MY CONGRATULATIONS TO HIM ON HIS ELECTION WERE MOST SINCERE AND I WISH HIM THE BEST OF SUCCESS IN THIS, THE LATEST SERVICE HE IS ABOUT TO UNDERTAKE FOR THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC.

ALL MY MEETINGS WERE CONCERNED IN THE FIRST PLACE WITH THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND THE URGENT NEED TO ARRANGE A SYRIAN/ISRAEL DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD SUPPORT OUR OVERALL EFFORTS TO MOVE TO A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. I INFORMED THE CHANCELLOR AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER ABOUT OUR EFFORTS TO ASSIST IN THIS PROCESS. SECONDLY, WE DISCUSSED OUR MUTUAL DESIRE TO ADDRESS THE FUNDAMENTAL ASPECTS OF RELATIONS BETWEEN EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES. WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE MEETING OF NATO FOREIGN

MINISTERS IN OTTAWA NEXT MONTH, WHEN THE ALLIANCE WILL APPROPRIATELY MARK THIS SIGNIFICANT ANNIVERSARY.

I RETURN NOW TO THE UNITED STATES. MY SCHEDULE RECENTLY HAS BEEN A BIT UNPREDICTABLE, SO I CANNOT SAY WHEN I WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO RETURN TO GERMANY. BUT I HAVE THE SCHEDULE FOR THE WORLD CUP FOOTBALL MATCHES IN MY POCKET, SO I WILL BE LOOKING FOR A SUITABLE EXCUSE--IF ONE IS

NEEDED--TO COME BACK THIS SUMMER.

7. SUGGESTED TOAST. I OFFER THIS TOAST WITH MIXED FEELINGS OF SADNESS, JOY, PRIDE AND ANTICIPATION.

SADNESS, BECAUSE I HAVE ENJOYED WORKING CLOSELY WITH WALTER SCHEEL. HIS DEPARTURE FROM THE RANKS OF FOREIGN MINISTERS WILL LEAVE US WITHOUT ONE OF OUR MOST TRUSTED AND ABLE MEMBERS.

JOY, AT WALTER'S ELECTION TO THE HIGHEST OFFICE IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. THE TALENTS HE WILL BRING TO THIS OFFICE ARE GREAT. I REJOICE THAT THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC WILL HAVE THE BENEFIT OF HIS SKILLFUL LEADERSHIP FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

PRIDE, AT THE ELEVATION OF A FINANCE MINISTER TO THE HIGH

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 STATE 103058

OFFICE OF CHANCELLOR. I OFFER MY CONGRATULATIONS TO HELMUT SCHMIDT AND MY SINCERE BEST WISHES FOR EVERY SUCCESS. IT MAY BE SETTING A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT TO HAVE A FINANCE MINISTER RUN THE GOVERNMENT OF ONE OF THE ECONOMIC POWERS OF THE WORLD, BUT I TAKE VICARIOUS PLEASURE AT THE SUCCESS OF A COLLEAGUE.

ANTICIPATION, AT THE PROSPECT OF WORKING WITH MY NEW PARTNER, MINISTER GENSCHER. I DO NOT FEEL THAT I CAN GIVE HIM ADVICE AS HE ASSUMES THIS IMPORTANT OFFICE. BUT I CAN WARN HIM THAT THE HOURS ARE LONG, THE REWARDS FEW, AND THE FOOD TOO GOOD. IT IS THE LAST CONSIDERATION WHICH IS THE MOST DANGEROUS.

WE RETURN NOW TO THE UNITED STATES. WE HOPE TO COME BACK SOON.

LET ME, ON BEHALF OF MY WIFE AND THE ENTIRE AMERICAN PARTY HERE TODAY, OFFER A TOAST TO THE SUCCESS OF THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT, TO THE CONTINUANCE OF OUR FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION, AND TO THE HEALTH OF THE CHANCELLOR, HELMUT SCHMIDT, THE PRESIDENT-ELECT, WALTER SCHEEL, AND THE MINIS-

TER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HANS-DIETRICH GENSCHER. RUSH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, MINISTERIAL VISITS, TOSEC 733
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE103058
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: HWILGIS:SK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740121-0932
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740538/aaaabhkp.tel
Line Count: 224
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 APR 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <25 JUL 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRIEFING MATERIAL: SECRETARY'S VISIT TO BONN FOR S/S ONLY (CONTINGENCY PAPER)
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, GE, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (SCHEEL, WALTER), (SCHMIDT, HELMUT), (GENSCHER, HANS DIETRICH)
To: JERUSALEM
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005